

Message

From: Kaiser, Steven [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=10BF2440EDD749D2845015C7AB59FF4B-SKAISE02]
Sent: 1/18/2017 9:07:49 PM
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CC: Toney, Marcy [toney.marcy@epa.gov]; Kyte, Larry [kyte.larry@epa.gov]; Garypie, Catherine [garypie.catherine@epa.gov]; Leverett Nelson [Nelson.Leverett@epa.gov]
Subject: USS Lead - Press Clips

East Chicago press clips**US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs**

January 12, 2017

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/actions-defended-in-epa-s-letter-to-visclosky/article_259cad60-ec9f-5a24-93ad-faa743110916.html

Actions defended in EPA's letter to Visclosky

- [Sarah Reese sarah.reese@nwi.com](mailto:sarah.reese@nwi.com), (219) 933-3351 EAST CHICAGO — EPA officials are defending steps they've taken to notify Superfund residents about elevated lead levels found in drinking water at some homes following criticism from federal elected officials.
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- EPA Acting Region 5 Administrator Robert Kaplan said in a letter to U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Merrillville, dated Jan. 3, that there are two reasons drinking water at 18 of 43 homes tested had lead levels above the EPA's action level of 15 parts per million: "the presence of lead in plumbing materials, and insufficient orthophosphate levels in the drinking water system."

"Public drinking water systems commonly add orthophosphate to drinking water as a corrosion inhibitor to prevent lead and copper from leaching from pipes and fixtures," Kaplan wrote. "EPA's initial drinking water sampling detected low or no orthophosphate levels."

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has primary oversight authority over drinking water, Kaplan wrote.

"After EPA notified the city and IDEM about the elevated lead levels, the city boosted the amount of orthophosphate added at the water treatment plant," Kaplan wrote. "This step should coat the interior surfaces of plumbing materials and decrease the amount of lead released into the drinking water."

The change will benefit all water system users, not just those living in homes where water samples were taken, said Chris Korleski, EPA Region 5 water division director.

Visclosky told residents at a congressional forum Monday in East Chicago that he and Sens. Joe Donnelly and Todd Young sent EPA a letter in late December expressing disappointment in how the agency notified residents of lead in water. Visclosky's office on Tuesday released the Dec. 20 letter and Kaplan's Jan. 3 response.

The congressmen said in their letter the way EPA released information created a sense of confusion and could have been prevented.

"We believe it is EPA's responsibility to conduct basic water quality tests for everyone living in zones 2 and 3," the Dec. 20 letter said.

EPA's Korleski said the agency viewed tests at the 43 homes as representative of the entire system and took steps to address the issue through orthophosphate adjustments.

"EPA does not see a benefit to testing each individual homeowner's tap water because the pilot study identified a system-wide issue that the city is addressing with IDEM," Kaplan wrote. "Additional sampling would confirm a problem that has already been identified and is being appropriately remedied."

A spokesman for Visclosky declined to comment Tuesday on whether he still thinks EPA should test all residents' water, saying Visclosky had not yet reviewed EPA's response with Sens. Donnelly and Young.*

<http://indianapublicmedia.org/news/indy-community-groups-win-national-redevelopment-award-112117/>

Indy Community Groups Win National Redevelopment Award

By **NICK JANZEN**

Posted January 11, 2017

Community groups on the east side of Indianapolis won a national award to redevelop an abandoned industrial site.

Listen Now: Indy Community Groups Win National Redevelopment Award



Photo: [Near East Area Renewal \(Facebook\)](#)

NEAR works with Near East residents and partner organizations to spur the renewal of neighborhoods.

Indianapolis is one of 19 communities nationally to win a redevelopment award from the Environmental Protection Agency to revitalize former industrial sites.

Near East Area Renewal Director John Hay says the \$200,000 grant is a significant first step towards redeveloping the Indy East Promise Zone.

Part of the area, Sherman Park, used to be the headquarters of RCA. At its peak in the 1950s, the factory's 8,000 employees manufactured records.

But now, Hay says, "Sherman Park looks like a bit of a war zone."

The abandoned area is an EPA Brownfield site, contaminated by former industrial use — one of hundreds in Indiana.

Hoosier Environmental Council director Jesse Kharbanda says Brownfields damper economic opportunity.

"They depress property values. And then because they're inactive, they don't play a role in providing jobs to a community," says Kharbanda.

The City of Indianapolis now owns Sherman Park, but General Electric is responsible for cleaning up the area under a voluntary program with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Hay says the EPA money will fund community planning.

“For instance, an education facility or part of it to be a park or part of it to be a commercial site or an industrial site or a combination of these,” Hays says.

Sincerely,

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